

Appl. No. 10/707,221
Amdt. dated November 19, 2004
Reply to Office action of September 22, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

5 Claims 1, 5, 7-9, 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ker et al. (US 6,576,958). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ker in view of Takamura (US 2004/0026750). Claims 2-5, 11 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

10 In reply to this, independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended. The limitations in claims 2 and 11 that are found allowable by the Examiner have been added into claims 1 and 8, respectively. Claims 2 and 11 are accordingly canceled. No new matter is introduced. Reconsideration of the once-amended claims 1 and 8 is therefore respectfully requested. As claims 3-7 are dependent upon the once-amended claim 1, they should be
15 allowable if claim 1 is allowed. As claims 9-10 and 12-13 are dependent upon the once-amended claim 8, they should be allowable if claim 8 is allowed. Reconsideration of claims 3-7, 9-10 and 12-13 is therefore politely requested.

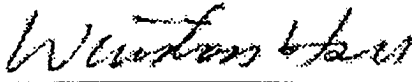
Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Sincerely yours,

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Date: November 22, 2004

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